

Testimony HB 2
Montana State Library Budget

Chairman Wells and members of the committee;

For the record, my name is Lyn McKinney and I am the librarian at Billings Senior High School and the President of the Montana Library Association. The Montana Library Association has close to 600 members throughout the state. These are librarians, para-professionals, board members of public libraries, school libraries, academic libraries and special libraries.

I speak today in support of the Governor's budget for the Montana State Library and I thank the Governor and his staff for this proposal.

However, when the Montana State Library Commission submitted the proposed budget, there were some other items in the proposed budget that did not make it into the Governor's budget. The Montana Library Association would like to bring one proposal to your attention and hope that you may consider adding this to the State Libraries budget.

Currently almost every library in Montana uses a database service called OCLC. ~~OCLC has over 3,600 libraries in the world and has a database of over 8 million titles.~~ The libraries in Montana use OCLC for cataloging materials and for Interlibrary Loan. The State Library has negotiated this service for the libraries in the State. Currently the cost is shared by the state and the libraries, similar to the database project. However, some libraries can not afford the cost of joining OCLC. The cost is based on a formula set up by the state library. Some libraries pay thousands of dollars each year to participate in OCLC.

Over 3600 libraries all over the world contribute to this database of over 8 million items.

The proposal was to have the cost for all libraries be included in the state library's budget. This would assist the state library in that they would not have to contact libraries each year to see who is going to participate and the cost for each library. By having the money in the state library budget, the intense work at the state library to administer this program would decrease. It would also allow those few libraries who do not participate in the program the ability to participate and also allow those libraries that are currently paying hundreds and thousands of dollars the opportunity to use the money budgeted for OCLC to use the money in other areas of their budgets.

The cost to the state would be \$600,000 per year. And what ~~does~~ ^{do} the citizens of Montana receive for that amount of money? A great deal of information.

Montana libraries use OCLC to catalog materials, such as books, journals, DVDs, CDs, slides, maps, etc. This means materials are available for use faster for Montana citizens ~~to assist them in areas such as:~~

Economic development: assist businesses to learn the newest trends in their fields;

Health care: to learn about the latest treatments in cancer; arthritis, ADHD, drug addiction and treatment;

Education: to assist students of all grades and ages in their studies in school; and for all people to continue their education even if they are out of school.

OCLC also allows libraries to request materials from other libraries. ^{This includes} ~~These are~~ other Montana libraries and also libraries throughout the world.

I ask that you consider this when deliberating on the Montana State Library budget.

Where else in the ~~State Library~~ ^{State} budget can you put 600,000 and potentially touch every citizen in Yours truly, the state of MT?

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my opinion.

Lyn McKinney

→ OCLC Provides access to an infinitite amount of info that would not be available to the average student in the average school in MT

OCLC is the Great equalizer. It gives every student in every school equal access to a world of information. ~~With~~ ^{the demands of} no child left behind and our own state Supreme Court demand that all students receive a quality education ~~and~~ ^{meeting those} this small investment can be an intragal part of ~~that~~ mandate.